

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a resolution of inquiry requesting that the President and Attorney General provide the House with any evidence in their possession relating to President Trump's claims that President Obama illegally ordered the wiretapping of Trump Tower, a task not welcomed but necessitated by the President's seemingly baseless accusations that the Obama administration wiretapped Trump Tower during the Presidential campaign. These accusations should be taken literally and seriously.

As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I have seen absolutely no evidence that supports the President's claims. President Trump and the Department of Justice have a responsibility to completely clarify the President's statement on Twitter.

If the White House and Department of Justice are unable to produce this evidence, as I suspect will be the case, the President owes the American people a thorough and immediate explanation and apology.

LET'S TAKE CARE OF OUR VETERANS

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the VA Accountability First Act. This legislation provides the VA's Secretary with increased ability to remove, demote, or suspend any VA employee for poor performance or misconduct.

Why it takes legislation to enforce common sense is beyond me. Just like in the business world, the VA and its employees must be held accountable for their actions.

Three weeks ago, I hosted a veterans townhall in Swainsboro, Georgia. Many of the complaints and concerns shared with me were about wait times. One thing no one has enough of is time, especially our veterans. For far too long, veterans have waited for care at their own expense. This is unacceptable.

It is our responsibility to not only take care of, but provide the best possible care to our servicemen and -women. Getting rid of bad and incompetent actors is a great place to start.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation. It is truly the least we can do for those who have done so much for us.

WHAT WILL AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT MEAN?

(Mr. RUIZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, the American Health Care Act, known as TrumpCare, will cause 24 million more people to go without health insurance over the next decade.

As an emergency physician, I know that everyone, even healthy young people, are vulnerable to car accidents or diseases that require critical care. Whether they have insurance or not, people get sick and get injured.

I have never treated a patient who said they were uninsured because they preferred to be uninsured. They simply couldn't afford it.

So what does 24 million more uninsured people mean?

It means more pain, suffering, and shorter life spans for people who go without care.

It means more ER visits and a longer wait to see a doctor in the emergency rooms for everyone.

It means financial ruin for young families or those ready to retire.

It means that hospitals and providers might lay off workers or even go out of business due to rising uncompensated care. It means they will charge more to make ends meet, which will raise premiums and out-of-pocket costs for everyone. Everyone will have to pay more.

I urge everyone to vote "no."

HOUSE REPUBLICANS FULFILL PROMISE

(Mr. WILSON of SOUTH CAROLINA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, an editorial last week in the Post and Courier of Charleston cites "GOP health bill a start," which provided accurate insight into how the American Health Care Act is the first step in a three-step approach on how to put patients back in control of health care.

The editorial states: "Any flaws notwithstanding, it's an important step forward for the GOP to put a fully fleshed-out healthcare bill on the table. . . . But there is certainly cause for optimism that a tweaked . . . healthcare bill can at least bandage and begin to cure some of the festering wounds left by ObamaCare. . . ."

"Republicans have a chance to make things right. They have a chance to help more Americans afford health care in a sustainable and responsible way. They have the chance to place more healthcare decisions in the hands of patients and doctors and fewer in the hands of government."

"The bill introduced on Tuesday is a first step in the right direction. . . ."

I appreciate the positive vision of Speaker PAUL RYAN with President Donald Trump and his team of OMB Director Mick Mulvaney and HHS Secretary Tom Price.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism to defeat Islamic extremist terrorists.

DEFEAT TRUMPCARE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 24 million Americans will lose their health insurance. They will become uninsured. We call it TrumpCare, as it should be called.

For 7 years, Republicans have said they have a better alternative to the Affordable Care Act. President Trump promised on the campaign trail that Republicans would put forward a plan that would have insurance for everybody which would be far less expensive and far better for the American people.

We now know the Congressional Budget Office report says that 24 million people will lose their health insurance, including 7 million who will lose their insurance they currently have through their employers.

Older Americans waiting to get on Medicare would be charged five times what they pay now. It reduces the Medicare trust fund, and it cuts 25 percent in Medicaid, a program that provides care for children and senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this plan is both heartless and financially unsound. This repeal bill does not lower premiums or out-of-pocket costs nor does it expand access to care, and it provides a huge tax cut poorly disguised as a healthcare bill.

We need to defeat this bill.

THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF CRIMEA

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week marks 3 years since Russia violated Ukraine's territorial integrity and illegally stole Crimea.

In 2014, the people of Ukraine peacefully decided to move closer to the European Union and away from the Russian sphere of influence. However, the Napoleon of Siberia would have none of it. Russian troops invaded the Crimean Peninsula of Ukraine. Little green men then invaded two more regions in eastern Ukraine.

The Russian invasions have cost 10,000 Ukrainian lives, but Russia has not stopped. Troops are pursuing a slow strategy to take more and more territory in eastern Ukraine.

Russia has invaded a sovereign country and taken over its lands. Mr. Speaker, what country is next?

The American people must stand with Ukraine and against the tyranny of the Russian bear. It is time to stand up to Putin. He must pay a price for his aggression. Sanctions against and isolation of the bear are good places to start.

And that is just the way it is.

A CALL FOR HEARINGS TO DETERMINE ROOT CAUSE OF WAVE OF HATE CRIMES

(Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)